

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

29 January 1954

Present

Members: [REDACTED], CIA, Chairman
CIA
Stanley Wilcox, State
John A. Lacey, State
Richard Bauer, Army
Lt. Cdr. William C. Kruse, Navy

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Consultants: Charles Stanley, State
[REDACTED], CIA
CIA
CIA

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Observers: [REDACTED] CIA
CIA
[REDACTED], CIA

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1. The eighteenth meeting convened at 1400 hours, 29 January 1954, in Room 2125 M Building.

2. The minutes of the seventeenth meeting were approved with the addition of the following qualifying comments of Mr. Lacey:

a. The minutes were still not full enough and should contain more complete coverage of the meetings.

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b. Regarding [REDACTED] statement that CIA desired FDD to undertake coordination as a first responsibility and exploitation secondarily, Mr. Lacey wanted the record to show that State Department desired FDD to assume exploitation as a primary responsibility and coordination secondarily.

3. To complete the statement of needs on the agenda:

Lt. Cdr. Kruse stated that they had no formal program on China but their needs were the same as stated under the USSR.

4. Outer Mongolia

Mr. Lacey stated that State Department had interest in and responsibility for basic information on Outer Mongolia. Firstly, because of the interest to NIS production and secondly, from the point of view of language coverage. Most of the useful foreign language coverage is in

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Russian emanating from Moscow. There is also some Chinese language material and of lesser value [REDACTED] which has been utilized. Very few Mongol language publications are available to State. They are aware of one book dealing with statutes which is important. It contains extensive material on the early history of the area and should be translated. At one time two Russian works were requested to be translated by FDD but their Russian language load was too great for them to fulfill this request. State's interest and need in this are limited to occasional translation of selected books. Information is needed from 1940 on.

Chairman: In summary, there are virtually no facilities at this time for substantial attention to Outer Mongolia. FDD receives occasional newspapers and periodicals. State's needs are: (a) translation of certain specific Russian reference volumes; and b) processing of any Outer Mongolian materials that may become available in the Mongol language focused on NIS requirements.

Mr. Lacey: There has been in the past year increasing radio monitoring coverage of Russian and Mongol language broadcasts on Outer Mongolia. They are proving that there is a lot more material available on the area.

Chairman: Yes, but the question is how to get hold of it. One Inner Mongolian newspaper is regularly received by FDD and it is covered for information on Outer Mongolia.

5. Other matters to be covered on China-Outer Mongolia (Item 3 on agenda):

Mr. Lacey: Present translation facilities are not meeting State's needs. We feel more translation of periodical literature would be more useful because Hong Kong Press Monitoring coverage of the press is adequate. Particular emphasis should be on political and economic information, to a lesser extent translation of sociological material.

Chairman: To what extent can State increase its translation facilities?

Mr. Lacey: We have had a cut. We hope we can get as much assistance as we have had in the past but we certainly cannot count on more.

Mr. Bauer: Army has substantially no facilities other than the work of the Army liaison officer in Hong Kong who produces press summaries on Communist activities and resistance movements. Army needs more translation facilities.

Lt. Cdr. Kruse: Navy has a small translation section of about three people. It has a backlog of 6 to 9 months. Some assistance comes from the field where natives are employed for the purpose.

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Present effort in exploitation services of the IAC agencies are not meeting the needs of the consumers effectively. One of these inadequacies is due to an apparent inability to coordinate exploitation efforts among groups in the IAC. Another of the inadequacies lies outside the exploitation itself, and is a part of the procurement and/or collection problem. The problem of Chinese publications is a little different from the Soviet publication problem, certainly as to the availability of materials (as well as in many other respects). Consequently, increased and successful collection efforts would allow the exploitation services to meet the needs of the consumers more effectively. These collection efforts would probably require the reassessment of consumer needs in terms of additional material received for exploitation.

Mr. Lacey: Coming again to this question of coordination against exploitation, one of the problems of maximum utilization of our materials is deciding what of the mountain of material is most worthwhile of the effort. A lot of time and effort could be saved by concentrating on documents of primary interest. This is evident looking at the material produced. Nothing is ever new in a Communist country, once the material is issued, what appears in the press becomes repetition. We should concentrate translation and exploitation efforts on primary documents. We find that the effort to translate primary documents is of primary importance. To know what is not said by the press is as important as knowing what is said. Omissions are frequently more important than assertions.

Chairman: There is not much duplication at the present time because FDD has made the effort to avoid duplication. If that effort were not necessary FDD would have more time to devote to exploitation.

Mr. Lacey stated that if a substantial amount of FDD's time were taken in coordination that this should be remedied to give more time to exploitation and asked how this could be done.

Chairman stated that it could be accomplished by a well-defined division of effort between Hong Kong and FDD, such as an allocation of responsibility in 1) source: Hong Kong assume responsibility for the press and FDD cover the periodicals; or 2) subject: Hong Kong report all political information and FDD report economic information.

Mr. Lacey stated that some definite pattern which can eliminate FDD from part of the program should be devised.

Chairman stated that three approaches could be made to the problem: 1) this Subcommittee could recommend that Hong Kong assume a certain responsibility; 2) recommend that FDD/CIA and State get together and work out the details of a program and report it to the Subcommittee; or 3) if those approaches could not be met try to develop interim coordination through branch chief meetings between FDD and State.

Mr. Lacey: OIR cannot speak for Hong Kong nor direct their efforts, but as one of its principal consumers we can recommend that changes be made.

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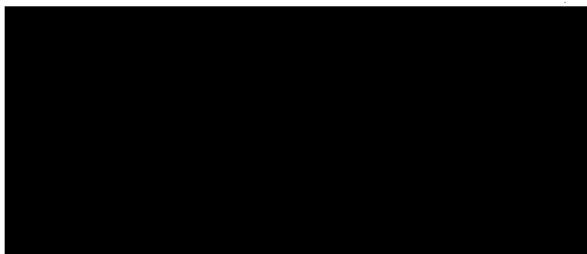
Chairman: This concludes our examination of China and Outer Mongolia. A summation of what we have covered in the seven meetings on China will be prepared with draft recommendations for your consideration.

Mr. Lacey: I would like to make some suggestions on the preparation of the first draft. I propose that to the extent that the draft does consider the problem of coordination, that that consideration be thought of in terms of possibly linking this notion of monthly liaison to the role of FDD as the Agency for insuring the coordination, with the thought in mind that the purpose for such a mechanism could insure the expression of all interested consumers. I think the expressions of the Foreign Language Working Group should be referred to. I have been trying to make sure that all the points that were raised in the Foreign Language Working Group findings have been considered here; it concerns the nature of a desirable coordination effort and the serious thought that had been given to the problems of the translator. He also quoted paragraph 2, item 6 of the Foreign Language Working Group report.

Chairman: This Subcommittee has no obligation to consider the report of the Working Group. Each representative has been furnished a copy for his own information.

At this point Mr. Lacey discussed a possible recommendation to increase the grade of translators. The Chairman suggested that the Subcommittee was only concerned with the implementation of ESCID-16 and that the grade of translators was only pertinent if it affects exploitation.

6. The meeting adjourned at 1530 hours, 29 January 1954. The first meeting on the examination of exploitation of scientific and technical publications will be held at 1400 hours, 5 February 1954, in Room 2125 M Building.



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